



News Release

WISCONSIN ARMY AND AIR NATIONAL GUARD

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Homeland Defense Update

More than 7,200 National Guard soldiers and airmen available in Wisconsin

Even with more than 2,000 Wisconsin National Guard personnel serving on active duty, the number of Guard soldiers and airmen available in the state remains at about 7,240 troops who are readily accessible in the event of state emergencies or to support homeland defense or security missions.

The Wisconsin Guard has been actively involved in the global war on terror since the morning of September 11, 2001. Since that time, about 70 percent of the Guard's soldiers and airmen have served on active duty either at home or overseas. Most of these 6,650-plus soldiers and airmen have completed their active duty missions and are back in Wisconsin serving with their Army and Air National Guard units.

Wisconsin's available resources include the National Guard's 54th Civil Support Team and its 22 highly skilled, full-time members of the Army and Air National Guard who are federally resourced, trained and evaluated, but fall under the command and control of the governor of Wisconsin. The team is designed to deploy rapidly to assist local first responders in determining the nature of a weapons of mass destruction incident, provide medical and technical advice, and pave the way for the identification and arrival of follow-on state and federal response assets.

Wisconsin also has a 500-soldier Rapid Reaction Force, which is capable of responding on short notice anywhere in Wisconsin with an initial force of 125 soldiers, and 375 additional soldiers available within 24 hours to sustain operations as long as required.

Of the Wisconsin National Guard's 9,450 current members, there are now about 2,230 serving on active duty for federal missions. Of those, about 2,030 are currently deployed overseas and another 80 will eventually deploy overseas following their post-mobilization training. The Guard's remaining soldiers and airmen are available in Wisconsin and are fully capable of responding to homeland security or defense missions anywhere in the state.

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